

**EXECUTIVE SECURE RIAT**  
ROUTING SLIP

*Memo Chrono*

| TO:      |            | ACTION            | INFO | DATE | INITIAL |
|----------|------------|-------------------|------|------|---------|
| 1        | DCI        |                   | X    |      | ✓       |
| 2        | DDCI-D     |                   | X    |      |         |
| 3        | EXDIR      |                   | X    |      |         |
| 4        | D/ICS      |                   |      |      |         |
| 5        | DDI        |                   |      |      |         |
| 6        | DDA        |                   | X    |      |         |
| 7        | DDO        |                   |      |      |         |
| 8        | DDS&T      |                   |      |      |         |
| 9        | Chm/NIC    |                   |      |      |         |
| 10       | GC         |                   |      |      |         |
| 11       | IG         |                   |      |      |         |
| 12       | Compt      |                   |      |      |         |
| 13       | D/OLL      |                   |      |      |         |
| 14       | D/PAO      | X                 |      |      |         |
| 15       | D/PERS     |                   |      |      |         |
| 16       | VC/NIC     |                   |      |      |         |
| 17       | C/SECOM    |                   | X    |      |         |
| 18       | D/Security |                   | X    |      |         |
| 19       | ES         |                   | X    |      |         |
| 20       |            |                   |      |      |         |
| 21       |            |                   |      |      |         |
| 22       |            |                   |      |      |         |
| SUSPENSE |            | 17 Apr 86<br>Date |      |      |         |

## Remarks

To 14: Please have requested draft statement prepared for DCI review.

Executive Secretary

14 April 86  
Date

3637 (10-81)

Executive Registry

86- 1575

12 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Public Affairs

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Leaks

1. I ran into Kay Graham at dinner last night. She thought our presentation on leaks went very well with the editors. She pointed out that Simons and I were really talking about different things, he about tearing down secrecy which covers up corruption and mismanagement and I about secrecy to protect lives and vital interests. In the discussion, that wasn't brought out as clearly as it might have been. The two of us talked past each other.

2. In this editorial in USA TODAY they decry overclassification in which there is probably room for improvement. They also again try to turn the whole issue on being entitled "to know what our federal government is doing just as we deserve to know how much the school board will pay teachers or whether the city council will raise taxes." That's true, but has nothing to do with protecting lives and national interests.

3. It seems to me we should get a coherent response drafted and use it to respond to editorial comment like this.



William J. Casey

Attachment:  
Page 10A, 11 April 1986 USA TODAY

DCI  
EXEC  
REG

25X1

10A • FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1986 • USA TODAY



"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation."  
—Allen H. Neuharth  
Chairman and Founder  
Sept. 18, 1982

John C. Quinn  
Editor

John Seigenthaler  
Editorial Director

## OPINION

### The Debate: THE USA'S SECRETS

Today's debate reflects the opinion that too many secrets and lies, not truth or aggressive reporting, are the real threat to our national security, an opposing view from those who believe that the USA must keep its secrets, and the Director of Central Intelligence, and voices from across the USA.

## Too many secrets are real security risk

"The White House," President Reagan says, "is the least-kept place I've ever been in."

The president wasn't talking about the White House roof. In his speech to newspaper editors this week, he deplored a lack of trust in the disclosure of information. He said it's such a serious problem that planning for U.S. operations of Libya was limited to a "few people."

CIA Director William Casey went further. He said the publication of secrets has destroyed intelligence sources and cost taxpayers "millions and even billions of dollars."

Leads are nothing new. After all, George Washington

led the news that the British would surrender at York-

town, a Philadelphia newspaper.

Today, it's not secret that our government keeps far too

many secrets. There are nearly 10 million government re-

ports that are classified, and 4 million government employ-

ees have clearance to see classified information.

It's ludicrous to think 40 people can keep a secret. How

can 4 million? If they were seeing it for the first time, some

bureaucrats would classify the Constitution.

Consider some of the "secrets" the media have reported

through the years:

■ A report that the space shuttle carried a spy satellite.

The Pentagon complained about the leak, but an Air Force

official said later little was reported that was not already

public information.

■ The Watergate scandal. Without leaks, the public

would never have known the extent of White House involve-

ment in the burglary and the subsequent cover-up.

■ The publication of the Pentagon Papers. The govern-

ment claimed printing the leaked details of how we got into

the Vietnam War would endanger U.S. lives. Courts dis-

agreed, and the knowledge we gained may have saved lives

ago.

■ Instead of harming us, most disclosures help us better

understand what government is up to. We are entitled to know

what our federal government is doing, just as we deserve to

know how much the school board will pay teachers or

whether the city council will raise taxes.

There are those who cry that journalists are unpatriotic.

They claim reporters would sacrifice national security for a

hot story. That's nonsense. Journalists frequently withhold

information if it would be dangerous or irresponsible

to reveal it. Even CIA Director Casey admits that.

The real disclosure that has damaged our national secu-

rity has not come from the press. It has come from the

White House and the Pentagon. The Johnnies Walters

and the other spies — who sold secrets to the Soviets.

Sure, sometimes leaks embarrass public servants. And

they've caused a bureaucratic flap or two. Because we live

in freedom, not under the thumb of a totalitarian state, our

democracy is messy. And to a great degree, our freedom

depends on how much we know about our government.

Yes, the White House leaks. But it would be a mistake to

fix it.

## QUOTELINES

"The First Amendment was not intended to make it impossible for the executive to function or to protect the security of the United States."  
—Erwin Griswold, former U.S. Solicitor General

"Many security labels are put on documents not to protect a true secret, but to avoid a mere embarrassment or to cover up a cost overrun, or an abuse of power, or to stifle criticism, or to avoid public scrutiny, or out of habit."  
—Howard Simons, former editor, The Washington Post

"Loose lips sink ships."  
—World War II slogan

"Without enlightenment about politics and information about government, democracy simply would not work."  
—Henry Steele Commager, historian

## ONE LINE ON THE NEWS

The CIA Director's statement Wednesday that the agency would not release information about the 1979 Iran hostage crisis was a clear signal that the agency was not going to release the information.



By David Seavey, USA TODAY

## JUDY MARKEY

Guest columnist

### Remember, you read it here first!

WILMETTE, Ill. — The

press may be occasionally

guilty of jeopardizing national

security, but I tell you that is

nothing — nothing — com-

pared to what children can do

when it comes to jeopardizing

family security.

No secret, no piece of infor-

mation is sacrosanct when the

little people with the big

mouths reside in your house-

hold.

Generally, there are two

main topics we do not want our

kids discussing with anyone

outside of the family — money

and sex. Conversation about

either of these is considered by

any normally minded adult to

be nothing less than betrayal.

Just like the press, children

have these sorts of inquiries

partly out of curiosity and

partly because they actually

feel they have a right to know.

WILLIAM J. CASEY

Guest columnist

### Help keep the USA's vital secrets

WASHINGTON — Our

country has spent billions of dollars

to develop methods of collect-

ing information required to de-

velop missiles and other weap-

ons aimed at us, to develop ef-

fective measures to protect our

citizens and installations

around the world from terror-

ism, and to assist our diplomats.

Good intelligence sources

are critical to our security. Se-

crecy and confidentiality are

essential. For that reason, we

must restrict the circulation of

information about how and

where we collect intelligence

— and also the reports and as-

sessments based on that infor-

mation. If this might reveal or

compromise our sources and

methods.

The KGB and other hostile

intelligence services spend bil-

lions each year in their efforts

to acquire this information.

Publication of this restricted

information hands our adver-

saries a silver platter infor-

Therefore they ask:

"Mommy, how much money

do we have?"

And though we consider our-

selves open, modern parents,

our response is inevitably

something nice and murky

like, "Oh, we have more than

\$10 and less than \$1 million."

Like Casey Weinberger, we

beguine this way in the interests

of security. Everyone knows

you can't be too defensive

when it comes to money.

One straight answer, and it's

only a matter of time till the

kid shows off his mouth to his

parents. Johnny Farquhar, who

will go along and tell Mr. and

Mrs. Farquhar you've got an out-

standing Visa bill of \$12,471, a

second mortgage against the

house, and owe \$4,397 on the

Volvo, which, when failed

against your assets, means

you're worth about \$87,341.23

Judy Markey is a columnist

for News America Syndicate.

— Not including the Alstate

politics.

Kids never make mistakes

when it comes to spilling the

family secrets.

Conversely, a kid is almost

always wrong when it comes to

getting the secret info right.

That's why, in the interests

of family security, it's always

better to stone-wall on these

matters. If he asks you how

often you make love, ask him

how often he thinks you do.

He will look at himself, and

his brother, count it up, and

say, "Twice."

Just nod your head, and say

"right." That's what my par-

ents told my brother and me.

Don't worry Mom, I won't

tell anyone. Your secret is safe

with me.

PETER B. GEMMA JR.

An opposing view

## Unpatriotic media risk national security

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — I

know, I know, it's almost pre-

dictable — even boring — to

read of a conservative's yearn-

ing for the good old days. Sure-

ly, however, when it comes to

media handling of national se-

curity issues, journalistic stan-

dards used to be higher.

I'm only 35, but I can't re-

member a precedent — nor

think of a rationalization — for

AIC's inviting that Soviet com-

munist commentator to rebut

our president. And I'm not a

USA-can-do-no-wrong reaction-

ary, but someone needs to say

that significant segments of the

media have lost all respect for

national security. Patriotism in

the same sentence as news

media? When's the last time

you saw that combination?

Consider the worldwide ter-

rorist war against us. Every

look, tug, and revolutionary

movement on the planet seems

to have instant access to cred-

ibility and celebrity by assault-

ing, verbally or worse, our

country and especially our in-

nocent civilians.

Remember the scandalous

coverage of the Pentagon Pa-

pers? The unnecessary expose

that one of the space shuttles

was carrying military satel-

lite payloads? Or the endless

discussion of the caliber and

range of ammunition we might

be using in Nicaragua? I just

don't think that's newsworthy. Of

course, I don't believe The New

York Times needed to detail our

Mediterranean military pres-

Peter B. Gemma Jr. is a con-

servative activist and free-

lance writer.

ence in exact troop counts, air-

plane/missile ranges, gun cal-

ibers, and support lines.

While Khedady kicks us

around, the Soviets bully de-

fenseless Afghans into submis-

sion, and the Sandinistas sub-

vert freedom in Central Amer-

ica, our press people play the

role of neutral observers. Have

they no patriotic instincts?

Sure, the public has come to

expect that a free press will

deliver accurate, reliable news

without undue influence from

left or right, good or bad. But

we also want our news deliv-

ered by real people, who hurt,

feel angry, and who can appre-

ciate the pride and patriotism

of the great middle class.

That's why the gangsters

who hold our innocents as hos-

tages don't deserve a "fair"

hearing, and why Mad-Dog

Khedady needs to be needed,

and why those who leak infor-

mation to fuel the fire of specu-

lation should be denounced as

sources for legitimate news.

And I'm real tired of Imelda

Marquez shoe-counts, of Louis

Parabian's spewings, and of

the voter cynicism of Mayor

elect Clint Eastwood's support-

ers. That's cheap and easy

"news." Poor Lowell Thomas

must be turning in his grave.

Cynical, superficial, and in-

sensitive to patriotic national

security interests are charged

the media must take seriously.

ERWIN KNOLL

Guest columnist

## What